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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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SUBJECT Soviet Antiaircraft Artillery

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[Redacted]

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the following new weapons were in use in the White Russian, Baltic and Carpathian Military Districts: 90mm antiaircraft guns with automatic fuse setters; 105 mm antiaircraft guns with automatic fuse setters, and 57 mm antiaircraft guns with automatic fuse setters. These guns were twin barreled and had a muzzle velocity of about 1100 meters per second.

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SECRET

-2-

50X1

were designed for use against jet aircraft. They also spoke of rocket launchers but gave no details.

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there was large scale experimentations with antiaircraft guided missiles in the area of the Caucasus, with particular emphasis upon missiles capable of use against jet aircraft. In this connection, there was very little new equipment of this type in use in Germany. There was an increasing tendency to concentrate it in White Russia, the Baltic, the Carpathian area and the Caucasus. All units of the 1st Meczd Army used old equipment.

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All the units

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used directors, radar and range and height finders of pre-war or wartime manufacture.

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one battery of each AAA regiment was equipped with SON 2, SON 3 or SON 3K. (SON is the abbreviation for Stantsiya Orudinoi Novodki, Fire Control Direction Finder Station.) The SON 2 was of British manufacture while the SON 3 and SON 3K were of Canadian manufacture.

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there was a new radar direction finder, called Malakhit, in wide use in the Baltic, White Russian, Carpathian and Caucasus areas. this was a Soviet improvement on the British and Canadian SON devices. Only senior officers were permitted to take training in the use of newly-developed radar equipment. There was however, a special school for junior radar officers in Kharkov which was established after the war, and known as the Radiolokatornaya Akademiya.

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the course lasted four years and was very difficult. Candidates were carefully screened and selected for the academy; they had to have a thorough knowledge of physics and mathematics, as well as a minimum of 10 classes in school (srednneye obrazvaniye). this was the only school of its kind in the Soviet Union.

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all equipment of this type was recalled to the Soviet Union.

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SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-3-

50X1

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Soviet territory is surrounded by a series of VNOS (Vozdushnoye Navlyudeniye, Opoveshcheniye i Svyaz). These stations are located about 50 kilometers apart. Upon detecting the approach of aircraft, these stations immediately signal the army headquarters which is responsible for that section of the border where the signalling VNOS station is located. The army headquarters radios the signal to all its division headquarters; in turn, division headquarters telephones the message to the lower echelons concerned. Immediately following the radio signal to lower echelons, army headquarters radios the same message to major neighboring commands. The signal transmitted by VNOS stations and in turn by army headquarters and division headquarters to the units concerned (ie AAA and Air Force units available at points where air raids are expected), consists of the work "Vozdukh", a numbered reference to a square on a marked map, the number of aircraft approaching, their altitude, the time, the name of the sender and the name of the receiver. "Vozdukh-2344-55-4000-1545-Galkin-Pastukhov." This expression would have the following meaning: "Air raid warning, aircraft approaching square #2344 (on map); 55 aircraft in the formation; flying at 4000 meters; time, 1545 hours; sent by Galkin; received by Pastukhov." Subsequent to the completion of the above procedure, army headquarters signals other neighboring units not directly concerned with the impending attack. This is a radio signal with two words only: "Grom" (thunder), followed by a code word. The word "Grom" is constant, while the code word is changed monthly. There was a similar VNOS in operation in the interior of the Soviet Union, in the perimeter areas of large cities, major industrial installations and large permanent airfields.

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Raions of 1st Category

Raions of 2nd Category

Leningrad

Kharkov

Moscow

Odessa

Khabarovsk

Kiev

Baku

Gorki

Sevastopol

Stalingrad

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SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-4-

50X1

The raions of the 1st Category are supposed to have the largest scale antiaircraft defense systems, while those of the 2nd Category have a smaller system. Each raion of the 1st Category had a PVO (Protivovozdushnaya oborona) Army composed of antiaircraft, artillery, fighter aircraft, radar, smoke protection, barrage balloons with steel cables and searchlights. The raions of the 2nd Category had one PVO each.

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